

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches from each side.

PROTECT OUR POSTERITY

(Mr. SOUTHERLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand today the Constitution of the United States. It begins by saying: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

I have a very, very short time here today, but I will say that irresponsible spending of the Federal Government does not form a more perfect Union. As a matter of fact, it forms a more imperfect Union. It establishes injustice. It ensures domestic chaos. It provides for the uncommon defense. It destroys the general welfare, and it endangers the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

Based on this very Constitution that I hold in my hand, the direction that we are heading violates the will of the people. It is time for us to stop arguing and get on with the work of the people and protect our posterity for generations to come.

FUNDING CUTS THREATEN HEAD START

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my Republican colleagues: Which child pictured here would you deny an early education? Why would I ask that question? I'll tell you why. As it stands now, the Republican budget proposal would kick 218,000 children out of Head Start and prevent them from receiving an edu-

cation, some of these children right here on this poster.

It will close 16,000 Head Start classrooms, classrooms in which these children learn. It will fire 55,000 Head Start teachers, teachers who teach these kids here.

A budget document, my friends, is not just about dollars and cents. It reflects our priorities as a Nation. Our children are our future and must be our top priority. Head Start is a key investment in improving their educational outcomes.

But if the Republican majority has their way, Head Start programs in my home State of Rhode Island will have to cut three kids from each classroom right now.

So I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Which of these children would you deny an early education to?

ILLEGALS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE WELFARE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a Center of Immigration Studies report cited in the Houston Chronicle, 70 percent of Texas' illegal immigrant families with at least one anchor baby collect welfare from Uncle Sam. People illegally in the United States should not receive welfare. American citizens shouldn't pay for the welfare of people who violate the law to enter this country.

Illegals are also draining our health care system. Sixty percent of the births over the last 4 years at a public hospital in Houston, Texas, were by women living here illegally.

I was recently in Cochise County, Arizona, where they have been forced to shut down almost all of their maternity wards because they can't financially support all of the illegals coming into the country.

Mr. Speaker, illegal immigration is breaking the bank. Let's take care of our citizens and legal immigrants first. Are you in, Mr. President?

And that's just the way it is.

DON'T DISMANTLE MEDICARE

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, today the Republicans want to shut down government. Tomorrow they want to dismantle Medicare. If the shutdown weren't enough, the Republican Party just released next year's road-to-ruin budget. And, unbelievably, the people they have chosen to target are America's seniors.

This budget ends the Medicare guarantee as we know it. It turns Medicare into a voucher system where you would have to put your fate back into the hands of private insurance companies. It results in seniors paying more for

Medicare. This plan shifts costs onto seniors and cuts Medicare at a time when seniors need health care the most.

We must take the target off the backs of our seniors and off of Medicare, a guarantee that seniors have earned through a lifetime of hard work.

ARMED FORCES FUNDING

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, every day courageous young men and women from all over America volunteer to serve our country in the military. They prove themselves as leaders and role models. But what is the response they receive from congressional liberals and even their Commander in Chief? A callous disregard. To further their own political aims, some of our colleagues would deny them their pay if there is a shutdown of the government this week-end. This is outrageous.

Our troops, especially those in combat zones, already have plenty to worry about without Democratic intransigence adding personal debt to those worries.

In February, Republicans offered H.R. 1 and yesterday H.R. 1363, which would ensure that every member of the Armed Forces would receive his or her full salary for the rest of the year. Republicans support the troops and want them to succeed in their mission. It appears that most of the Democrats in Congress feel differently.

Our troops are sacrificing to keep us free and are exhibiting leadership. Democrats should follow their example and honor our commitments to the men and women of the military and their families.

□ 1210

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: EFFECT AND CAUSE

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of quotes on this floor, so this one goes out to our young people and our seniors and our service-members and Federal workers who stand to be affected by a government shutdown. It's a lesson for my Republican colleagues courtesy of the White Stripes, a little "Effect and Cause":

"I guess you have to have a problem
If you want to invent a contraption
First you cause a train wreck
Then you put me in traction.
Well, first came an action
And then a reaction
But you can't switch around
For your own satisfaction.
You burnt my house down, then got mad

At my reaction?
It's that you just can't take the effect